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REAGAN IN APPEAL

After Third Incident, He Calls on West to Help Combat Terrorism

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WASHINGTON, June 20 — President Reagan, saying "our limits have been reached," called today on Western nations to step up their efforts to curb international terrorism.

In the aftermath of the Trans World Airlines hijacking, the Frankfurt airport bombing on Wednesday and a shooting attack in San Salvador later that day, Mr. Reagan said in a statement:

"The war which terrorists are waging is not only directed against the United States, it is a war against all of civilized society. This is a war in which innocent civilians are targets. This is a war in which innocent civilians are intentional victims and our servicemen have become specific targets. This cannot continue."

Asked about possible actions by the United States in response to the detention of hostages aboard the hijacked plane Larry Speakes, a White House spokesman, said, "Wait and watch."

Mr. Reagan's statement was also in partial response to the attack on two outdoor cafes in San Salvador that killed 13 people, including four United States marines and two American businessmen. But the hostage situation in Beirut served as the backdrop for the statement, which was drawn up in a 65-minute White House meeting this morning.

Mr. Reagan termed the San Salvador attack an "atrocious" like the Frankfurt bombing, which left a man and two children dead and 42 injured. He ordered stepped-up arms deliveries to El Salvador and said he was prepared to invoke his emergency authority to provide the Salvadoran armed forces with additional military assets which will help them prosecute their campaign against the Communist guerrillas.

He made it plain that direct American military action in El Salvador or Lebanon was, for the moment, unlikely.

"I want the American people to know," he said, "that what we do in these circumstances must not be done in pointless anger. These events call for reasoned responses to lawless actions by those who do not abide by the norms of civilized society."

On Beirut, Mr. Speakes said the United States would not do anything that would endanger the lives of the hostages.

Mr. Reagan, in his statement, said: "I believe that our actions must be appropriate and proportionate to the criminal acts which have been taken against our citizens. Those who are responsible for such lawlessness and those who support it must know that the consequences of their actions will never be capitulation to terrorist demands."

"We are both a nation of peace and a people of justice. By our very nature, we are slow to anger and magnanimous in helping those in less fortunate circumstances. No nation has been more generous to other in need. But we also have our limits — and our limits have been reached."

Reagan's Remark Explained

Asked what Mr. Reagan meant, Mr. Speakes said:

"It means that we are now drawing the line. We are laying out a specific plan of action, first in Central America, and delivering military weapons, providing additional intelligence, providing technical law enforcement assistance as requested by the Government of El Salvador."

Second, as far as the Middle East is concerned, we are redoubling our diplomatic efforts there in order to bring pressure to bear on those who might have influence, in order to release those being held by the hijackers."

Mr. Reagan directed Vice President Bush to consult with the Western European allies on terrorism during a trip starting Sunday. After Mr. Bush returns July 3, he is to convene a task force to recommend "how all available U.S. resources can best be brought to bear in dealing with this problem."

Hijacking Legislation Offered

Meanwhile, Transportation Secretary Elizabeth H. Dole proposed legislation to improve the security of air passengers abroad. Mr. Reagan had announced the proposals at a news conference on Tuesday.

The proposed legislation, called the "Anti-Hijacking Act of 1985," calls for possible use of armed sky marshals on international flights. It would also suspend air services between the United States and any foreign airport that was deemed unsafe.

On Tuesday, Mr. Reagan said security was considered inadequate at the Athens airport, where two hijackers boarded the T.W.A. plane on a flight to Rome last Friday.

On El Salvador, Mr. Reagan said that he expected Congress to endorse his efforts and that he would consult with Congressional committees on other steps that could be taken "in El Salvador and elsewhere to end the external support the Salvadoran terrorists receive from Nicaragua and the Communist bloc."

Mr. Speakes said Mr. Reagan planned to keep a speaking engagement in Dallas on Friday and to spend the weekend at the Presidential retreat in Camp David, Md.